

Minutes of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee - July 30, 2004

Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Medical Examiner's Office.

Present: Chair William Mitchell, County Board Supervisors Kathleen Cummings, Keith Harenda (arrived at 8:40 a.m. and left at 11:45 a.m.), Mareth Kipp (left at 11:30 a.m.), David Swan, Jean Tortomasi; **Absent:** Carl Seitz

Staff Present: County Board Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legislative Policy Advisors Dave Krahn and Mark Mader, Legis.Associate Sandra Meisenheimer

Also Present: Chairman Jim Dwyer, Judge Michael Bohren, District Court Administrator Mike Neimon, Public Works Director Rich Bolte, Director of Administration Norm Cummings, County Executive Chief of Staff Allison Bussler, Sheriff Dan Trawicki, Inspector Bob Johannik, Jail Administrator Mike Giese, Business Mgr. Tom Koth

Tour of Medical Examiner's Office

The committee convened at the Medical Examiner's office and was greeted by Dr. Lynda Biedrzycki. She stated that the reception and waiting area were going to be remodeled with new carpeting and the reception/work area reconfigured. Kipp asked why Ione Patterson (secretary) was using a typewriter. Biedrzycki said because there are a lot of forms, and a typewriter is easier to use. Kipp asked what kind of training do deputy medical examiners need? Biedrzycki replied under State Statutes there is no training requirement but her goal is to bring it up to a college requirement.

In the examining room Swan asked what the medical examiner does when a family requests to see a body. Biedrzycki said they don't have families view bodies. When identity is needed, photographs are used. Harenda asked how often the air filters are changed in the examining room. Biedrzycki said that was an interesting question but she didn't know. She will find out. Esler asked why the hallway was full of records boxes. Biedrzycki said that she retrieved them from records management because she wrote an article on child mortality in Waukesha County from 1987 through 1999. There were 106 children under age 3 who died during that time period in Waukesha County. Kipp asked what is the amaximum number of bodies that can be held in the morgue? Biedrzycki said 14.

After the tour the committee reconvened in the meeting room at 9:20 a.m. Chair Mitchell led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report by Judge Bohren on the Courthouse Security Committee

Bohren and Neimon were present. Bohren stated the 9/11 disaster has heightened their concern as to what could happen within the courthouse. Courthouses, particularly in counties like Waukesha, could be a primary target if there is a terrorist threat. Employees were surveyed in the past, and they indicated an interest in having heightened security in the courthouse. Neimon distributed a packet of information for the committee's review. Bohren gave a power point and covered the following items: goal of plan, objectives of plan, where we are today (objectives 2, 3, and 5 are complete), and issues they are still dealing with (objective 1- timetable, and objective 4-weapons screening program). Bohren stated they believe a further step has to be taken to implement securing the building, which would be to have security staff at the main entrances to the courthouse and administration building. There haven't been any funds appropriated in 2004 nor anything for 2005 as proposed by the County Executive. Bohren said he is here today as chairman of the Security Committee and also as a representative of the judges. They are asking for consideration of a good, sound public policy to implement the security plan.

Bohren stated they looked to the Department of Administration, using the Sheriff's information, for a proposal for funding to staff the stations. Option 1 is for nine hours of staffing at two entrances (two sworn officers; four non-sworn officers); estimated cost is \$263,910 for full screening at both entrances; and does not include capital improvements or operating costs (\$15,000 for uniforms/training). Bohren said they feel the full funding (Option 1) maximizes security for everyone, provides consistency in the county and maximum ability to collect data to see if it is a necessary program, and allows their staff to become proficient and efficient in screening and operating a station. Option 2 is ¼ funding in the amount of \$65,978, which allows them to operate the security screening station and gives them flexibility to set up times, allows them to gather data to analyze the effectiveness of security stations, gives staff a chance to be trained, and offers protection in the building. Option 3 is ad hoc funding, which really is about where they are right now. The Security Committee approved the purchase of new screening equipment through a grant and to have the doors locked. If and when it is necessary, they can bring out the equipment and use it.

Questions and comments by the committee continued. K.Cummings said she likes Option 2 the best, but is it possible to budget a certain amount to use as needed? Bohren said he doesn't believe there is contingency for security but there may be general contingency. K.Cummings said she likes Option 2 and also Option 3 because you can see where the bumps are in the road with the system.

Kipp asked would security at the entrances reduce the number of bailiffs required in the courtrooms? Bohren replied not in criminal court or family court. Kipp asked could down time in the courts allow for bailiffs, if they are trained, to fill in at the entrances? Bohren said yes. If the bailiffs are not being used in the courts, they certainly can be used for security purposes.

Swan asked do you know if it is in the budget for 2005? Bohren said he has been told it is not in the budget. This has been discussed with the County Executive, County Board Chairman and the judges at length.

In closing, Bohren thanked everyone and said he is always available for questions. He also said ride-alongs are available to the committee. Anyone can come to court and sit in, but a ride-along involves sitting on the bench where the judge is presiding. Chair Mitchell thanked Judge Bohren and Mike Neimon for their presentation.

Consider Proposed Resolution: 159-R-007 Support for Creating a New Department of Emergency Preparedness and Transfer Airport to Public Works

N.Cummings, Bussler and Bolte were present. This resolution will combine three separate but related county operating divisions (Consolidated Dispatch; Radio Services; and Emergency Management) into one new department (Emergency Preparedness) and combine Airport operations into the Public Works Department. With the growth of the Airport, combining airport operations with the Public Works Department will provide more overall direction, support services, greater resources to obtain more efficient and cost effective services, and reduce risk in the current three person Airport Operations Department.

Bussler stated that this will improve communication among those departments, because it is so essential when there is a disaster. Since September 11 there has been a great increase in the amount of federal dollars available for emergency preparedness activities, and they want to take advantage of those opportunities. Bussler stated the good news is the City of Milwaukee has agreed to include Waukesha County in their grant proposal. Also, the Airport Commission will be renamed as a board and Airport operations will be moved into the Public Works Department. N.Cummings

explained that at a later date there will be an ordinance to change the commission to an advisory board. He stated that Business Continuity will also transfer to the new department from Purchasing as it fits in with Emergency Preparedness very well.

Harenda indicated that it is a good idea to change the commission to a board and likes Airport operations transferring to the Public Works Department. N.Cummings said he agrees although the commission has done a great job over the years and has gotten the levy down, but now it is time because the Airport is bigger and the staffing is very shallow with only three people. He stated the reason this is being presented at this time is because the Comm. Center is transferring out of Public Works thereby leaving a capacity for support in management for the airport. Mitchell asked with dispatch and emergency management, is it big enough to be its own department? N.Cummings replied it will have 60 employees. Bussler said Radio Services is also part of it. N.Cummings went on to explain the fiscal note, which included a detailed summary of the positions involved and the corresponding savings. N.Cummings also believes this change will help in securing grant funds from the federal government.

Mitchell asked Bolte will you feel comfortable with Airport operations as a part of the Public Works Department? Bolte replied that back in 1984 the Airport was part of his department. It wasn't until 1992, when the county board created the Airport Commission, that it changed. He said he has no problem at all with it being transferred back.

K.Cummings asked will the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) still exist? Bolte replied yes it will continue. Swan said he likes the idea of improved communication and being more aggressive with funding, which sounds like it is going to happen. Swan said he sees the biggest problem with the Airport Commission being abolished. Swan asked has the commission been involved with this? Bussler said Executive Finley did discuss this with Airport Commission Chair Perry, who doesn't fully agree with the change.

Motion: K.Cummings moved, second by Kipp, to approve the creation of an Emergency Preparedness Department for Waukesha County. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

Motion: Kipp moved, second by Harenda, to transfer the administration of the Airport to the Public Works Department. **Motion carried 5 – 1; K.Cummings voting no.**

Motion: Tortomasi moved, second by Swan, to approve Resolution 159-R-007. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

Discuss and Consider 2003 Annual Report of the Sheriff's Department

Trawicki, Johannik, Giese and Koth were present. Trawicki began by saying that the first 5-8 pages of the report are mostly factual information about the department. He and his staff covered the following areas as the committee asked questions: P.A.R.C. (Preventing Alcohol Related Crashes) Task Force, Division Commanders and Supervisors (Administration, Patrol, Enforcement Services Operational Data, Detective Bureau, Computer Forensics Unit, Court Services, Metro Drug Enforcement Unit, table illustrating arrests and other investigative activity for 2003, Terrorist Threat Analysis, Continuity of Government and Emergency Response; School Resource Officer Program, and Sheriff's Department D.A.R.E.). Kipp left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Trawicki and staff continued on with Community Relations and Policing, Volunteering in Our Community, Contract Services Division, Communications Center, Dive Search and Recovery

Team, Canine Support Unit Snowmobile Patrol, Boat Patrol, Tactical Enforcement Unit (SWAT), and Jail Division (Operational Data, WSD employee growth 1986-2003).

Trawicki commented that as budget cycles come around, it is important to note that his office does a very good job of managing their budget, and it's not by accident. Last year they again returned funds to the county of about \$339,000. Tortomasi said she finds it astounding that the Sheriff's Department has added only 12 more positions from 1986 to 2003 with the population in the county skyrocketing. Trawicki added that of those 12, most are probably contracted positions.

Harenda left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Legislative Update

Krahn summarized how the legislature behaved this current week in trying to, without advance copies, make an amendment to the constitution. They are now finished for the session. On Monday Senator Neal Kedzie, who is a supporter of TABOR, will be appearing at the Executive Committee meeting.

Executive Committee Report by Bill Mitchell (Meeting of July 12, 2004)

Mitchell stated that basically everything discussed at the meeting was voted on at the last County Board meeting.

Reports by Committee Member Liaisons

Supervisor Swan on Tour of the Building at 1120 Northview Road, Waukesha, and a Status Update on the Jail Construction:

Swan said regarding the building at 1120 Northview Road, a summary of estimated costs to renovate add up to \$110,000. The Public Works Committee made a motion yesterday that the building is an asset and avenues should be explored as to its use.

Swan stated regarding the jail construction that the total contingency for this project is \$2,300,000 and to date \$944,619 has been spent leaving a balance of about \$1.3 million, which is for unanticipated expenses to the original plan. An example is they found unsuitable soil conditions while putting in the pilings. This was unexpected. Regarding video conferencing, Bolte said it has been thoroughly researched and discussed in public, and they will be moving forward with it.

Supervisor K.Cummings on the Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting of 6/17/04:

K.Cummings stated the minutes distributed with the agenda give a good synopsis of the last meeting.

Approve Minutes of June 11, 2004

Motion: K.Cummings moved, second by Tortomasi, to approve the minutes of 6/11/04. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

Motion to adjourn: Swan moved, second by K.Cummings, to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 Noon. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mareth K. Kipp
Secretary

/sm